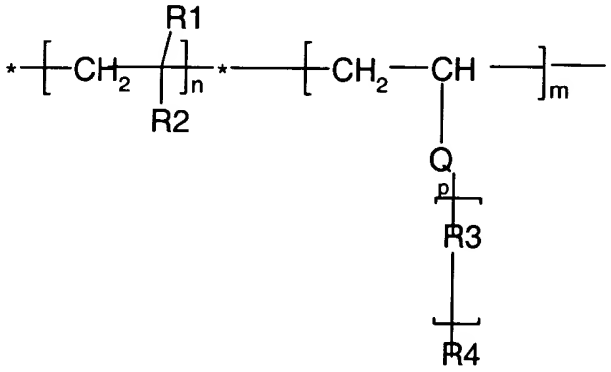
IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An aqueous superplasticizer solution for concrete compositions comprising a polymeric superplasticizer and an air-detraining effective amount of an air detraining agent which includes block polyether containing ethylene oxide and propylene oxide units, said block polyether having a number average molecular weight of between about 700 to about 3500, and being initiated with an initiator containing reactive diamine or glycol terminal groups capable of adding to C_2 – C_4 epoxides.

2. (Currently Amended) The aqueous superplasticizer solution of claim 1, wherein the polymeric superplasticizer ~~air detraining agent~~ includes a comb polymer represented by the following general formula (I):



where R_1 = H or CH_3;

R_2 = COOM, OCH_3, SO_3M, O-CO-CH_3, CO-NH_2, where M is a salt of Na, Ca, K, or Mg;

R_3 = an alkylene oxide group selected from the group consisting of ethylene oxide, propylene oxide and/or butylene oxide, and wherein the alkylene oxide groups can be in either a block or random distribution;

$R_4 = CH_3$ or alkyl;

Q = C(O)O,C(O)NH, CH_2O, CH_2N, O;

m and n are such that between 98% to 2 % of m units and between about 2% to about 98% of n units are present in the polymer; and

p is between 1 to 300.

3. (Currently Amended) The aqueous superplasticizer solution of ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the air detraining agent includes a block polyether which is a block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide represented by the following general formula (II):

$$[R_3R_2]_n(R_1)_n$$

wherein:

R_1 is an initiator containing reactive diamine or glycol terminal groups capable of adding to $C_2 - C_4$ epoxides,

R_2 is either propylene oxide or butylene oxide;

R_3 is ethylene oxide, and

n represents the functionality of the initiator and is a number greater than or equal to 2, and wherein

R_3 and R_2 are interchangeable in the formula.

4. (Original) The aqueous superplasticizer solution of claim 3, wherein the block polyether is a block copolymer of ethylene oxide and up to about 30% of propylene oxide.

5. (Currently Amended) The aqueous superplasticizer solution of ~~claim 1~~ claim 3, wherein the air detraining agent is dispersed throughout the solution in an amount between about 0.01 wt.% to about 1.0 wt.%.

6. (Original) The aqueous superplasticizer solution of claim 5, wherein the air detraining agent is dispersed throughout the solution in an amount between about 0.01 wt.% to about 0.7 wt.%.

7. (Original) The aqueous superplasticizer solution of claim 5, wherein the air detraining agent is dispersed throughout the solution in an amount between about 0.1 wt.% to about 0.5 wt.%.

8. (Original) A cement composition which comprises a hydraulic cement and an aqueous superplasticizer solution as in any one of claims 1-7.

9. (Original) The composition of claim 8, wherein the superplasticizer solution is present in an amount of at least about 0.005 wt.%, based on the total weight of the cement composition.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 9, wherein the superplasticizer solution is present in an amount between about 0.005 wt.% to about 5.0 wt.%.

11. (Original) The composition of claim 9, wherein the superplasticizer solution is present in an amount between about 0.03 wt.% to about 1.0 wt.%.

12. (New) An aqueous superplasticizer solution for concrete compositions comprising a polymeric superplasticizer and an air-detraining effective amount of an air detraining agent which includes an ethylene oxide-propylene oxide block polyether having a number average molecular weight of between about 700 to about 2500 and being initiated with an initiator containing reactive diamine or glycol terminal groups.

13. (New) The aqueous superplasticizer solution of claim 12, wherein the block polyether is a block copolymer of ethylene oxide and up to about 30% of propylene oxide.

14. (New) The aqueous superplasticizer solution of claim 13, wherein the initiator is ethylene diamine or propylene glycol.

15. (New) The aqueous superplasticizer solution of claim 14, wherein the air detraining agent is dispersed throughout the solution in an amount between about 0.01 wt.% to about 1.0 wt.%.

16. (New) The aqueous superplasticizer solution of claim 15, wherein the air detraining agent is dispersed throughout the solution in an amount between about 0.01 wt.% to about 0.7 wt.%.

17. (New) The aqueous superplasticizer solution of claim 15, wherein the air detraining agent is dispersed throughout the solution in an amount between about 0.1 wt.% to about 0.5 wt.%.

18. (New) A cement composition which comprises a hydraulic cement and an aqueous superplasticizer solution as in any one of claims 12-17.